IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application

JAN 2 6 2004

DIELMAN ET AL.

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EXAMINER: (TO BE ASSIGNED)

For:

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria,

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January 23, 2004

Date of Signature

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Submission

Sir:

This submission is supplemental to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement which applicants filed on December 19, 2003 (date of the Certificate of Mailing). Applicants herewith enclose a copy of the European Search Report which brought the reference EP 1206976 to applicants' attention. The European Search Report issued on November 21, 2003. Applicants Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was, therefore, submitted timely, and consideration of the reference in the examination is respectfully solicited.

Furthermore, it is respectfully noted that the European Search Report identifies US 2002059974 A1 as an English language equivalent of EP 1206976. A copy of the U.S. publication is herewith enclosed for the record. Favorable action is solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 11.0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

> Respectfully submitted, KEIL & WEINKAUF

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Encl.: European Search Report

HBK/BAS